TOTAL SUPPLY	144.64	168.58
DEMAND		
Mill Consumption.	103.09	112.81
Small Spinners consumption.	—	3.26
Non-Mill Consumption.	8.00	8.00
Exports.	0.77	13.766
TOTAL OFFTAKE	111.86	137.836
CARRYOVER AS ON 31st August.	32.78	30.74

(e) During the year 1991-92 the Government did not permit export of cotton against the initial quota of 5 lakh bales released by the Government at the beginning of the season, for protecting interest of handloom weavers in the conext of price rise. However, at the end of the season a small quantity of about 30,000 bales was allowed to be exported through CCI. During 1992-93 season the situation was different due to a bumper crop of 135 lakh bales. Government had, therefore, allowed export quota of 17.855 lakh bales. The easy availability of cotton at lower prices helped the cotton consumption to register a marked improvement at 112.81 lakh bales as compared to 103 lakh bales during the previous season.

Silk Yarn Bank Scheme in Andhra Pradesh

195. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a proposal for implementation of Silk Yarn Bank Scheme in that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has nominated Federation of Sericulture and Silk Weavers Coop. Societies Ltd., Hyderabad (SERIFED) as the implementing agency of National Silk Yarn Bank Scheme in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) An amount of Rs. 27.00 lakhs has already been released to the implementing agency towards Ist instalment for implementation of the Scheme.

Establishment of regional Tasar Research Institute in Andhra Pradesh

196. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Prdesh Government has submitted a proposal for the establishment of Regional Tasar Research Institute in that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) The proposal for setting up of a Regional Tasar Research Station of the Central Silk Board at Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh has already been approved by the Govt. of India.

Ban on Import of Silk Yarn

197. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to impose a ban on the import of silk yarn for local consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) Raw Silk is in the negative list of imports in the Export-Import Policy and its import is not normally allowed for domestic

consumption. However, in exceptional circumstances, when there is an acute shortage of supply in the domestic market causing distress to the weavers, especially of the handloom sector, limited imports are allowed under close supervision. In the past 3 years, only 46.26 metric tonnes of mulbery raw silk has been imported for domestic consumption.

Import of Raw Silk

198. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantites of raw silk are being imported for return export of finishing silk;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that large quantities of the imported silk has found their way into market;

(c) if so, whether the Central Silk Board has requested Government to stop the import of silk; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) Under the Advance Licensing Scheme (ALS) of the Export-Import Policy, exporters are allowed the facility to import their raw silk requirements for export production.

The Government had received a number of requests from various quarters including the Central Silk Board about the alleged misuse of the raw silk import facility available under the ALS and the need to ban/restrict the import of raw silk.

While, it has been felt that the raw silk which is genuninely required for export production may continue to be allowed for import under the ALS, the Government have taken the following steps to restrict the import of raw silk and to ensure that unscrupulous elements in the trade may not misuse the facility:—

(i) The Input-Output norms for import of raw silk under the ALS have been revised.

(ii) The facility of Value-Board Advance Licensing has been withdrawn in the case of silk textile products.

(iii) Pre-shipment inspection scheme has been reintroduced for silk products exported against ALS imports of raw silk.

Production and consumption of Cotton

199. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the carry over surplus of cotton during the current year;

(b) what is the estimated production of cotton during the current year;

(c) what is the total domestic consumption of cotton in our country;

(d) how much will be the surplus during the current year; and

(e) what is the quota of export of cotton bales given for this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The carry over surplus of cotton during the current year is 30.74 lakh bales.

(b) The Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) in its meeting held on 8th November, 1993 had estimated the production of cotton during the current year at 135 lakh bales. However, there have been reports of damage to the crop in some states and the production of cotton is now expected to be around at 125 lakh bales.

(c) The total domestic consumption of cotton in the country is estimated at around 125 lakh bales.

(d) The surplus during the current year is likely to be approx. 29 lakh bales.